

great courage and dignity—and he was one of the most influential leaders in the history of Mississippi higher education,” Keenum said.

Salter said he and his late wife, Paula, who also had multiple sclerosis, were friends with Zacharias and his wife of 53 years, Tommie.

“They took an interest in Paula, and, ironically, he would later be diagnosed with MS,” Salter said. “He had a tremendous impact on me. He was a solid guy and a man of great integrity.”

Zacharias brought Mississippi State to a new level of prominence during his 12½ years of service.

He raised MSU’s visibility and reputation nationally, and enrollment climbed to the largest in the state at almost 16,000. African-American enrollment more than doubled to 2,200, 15 percent of the student body and the highest percentage among SEC schools, according to a Sunday news release from the university.

Enrollment, private contributions, research and athletic achievement all grew significantly as part of Zacharias’ legacy.

“Dr. Donald Zacharias was a transformative figure at Mississippi State University,” Keenum said. “He really helped bring MSU into the modern era, and he did so by developing a broad vision for the leadership that Mississippi needed from a land grant university.”

Zacharias, upon his retirement from MSU, said: “I saw things in Mississippi State University that others might not have seen. I felt that I had made the right decision to be at this university because I liked both what it stood for and its overall character. I liked its mission, and I liked the students and alumni. I saw the potential.”

Gary Harris, a coach and educator at Heritage Academy in Columbus who graduated from MSU in the early 1990s, said he remembers Zacharias as someone who was able to connect with everyone, regardless of their backgrounds.

“Because of my involvement in several campus organizations, I was around Dr. Z many times,” he said. “He was a very kind, knowledgeable man who always seemed to know how to make everyone in the room seem important. He was a tremendous leader for our campus during some very difficult financial times.”

Salter said many of Zacharias’ dreams for the university continue to be fulfilled.

“He had a long reach, and his influence extended past his own tenure as president.”

Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but the Zacharias family will communicate details through the university. A public memorial service is tentatively planned for Thursday on the Starkville campus of MSU.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE STEVEN ELLIOT

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Judge Elliot as he retires from the bench having honorably served on Nevada’s Second Judicial District Court for 16 years. Judge Elliot’s wisdom and temperance has made him an extremely effective and admirable judge. His distinguished career as an attorney, judge, and public servant in Nevada is worthy of our appreciation.

After graduating from Stanford University and earning his juris doctor from the University of Denver, Judge Elliot was first elected Sparks City Attorney in 1979 and held that position until his election to the district court. While working as city attorney for

Sparks, he founded the Washoe County Domestic Violence Task Force and supported the Washoe County DUI Task Force. Judge Elliot also crafted legislation requiring land developers to dedicate water rights to local governments, saving taxpayer dollars.

In 1997, Judge Elliott assumed his position as district judge where he was assigned in the family division and general jurisdiction dockets working on civil and criminal cases. As chairman of the Employee Relations Committee, he led a year-long task force to revise the employee manual. He also served on the Nevada Statewide Court Security Task Force to improve security for judges and the public in courthouses throughout Nevada.

In addition to his responsibilities in the court, he has also been very active in many community organizations. He has tirelessly worked to improve the life of Nevada’s young people and abused and battered women, as well as promoted clean and safe communities in Nevada. I applaud Judge Elliot’s commitment to upholding the law of the land as well as the betterment of his community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Judge Elliot for his accomplishments and contributions to Nevada and his retirement from the Second Judicial District Court of Nevada. He is a truly exceptional Nevadan.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 749. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement.

H.R. 1035. An act to require a study of voluntary community-based flood insurance options and how such options could be incorporated into the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 592. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify that houses of worship are eligible for certain disaster relief and emergency assistance on terms equal to other eligible private nonprofit facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 749. An act to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual privacy notice requirement; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1035. An act to require a study of voluntary community-based flood insurance options and how such options could be incorporated into the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 558. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity outside the United States.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Maximum Interest Rates on Guaranteed Farm Loans” (RIN0560-AH66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Selection and Functions of Farm Service Agency State and County Committees” (RIN0560-AG90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-798. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Child Nutrition Programs: Nondiscretionary Amendments Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010” (RIN0584-AE14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-799. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Updated Trafficking Definition and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations Dual Participation” (RIN0584-AD97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-800. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch,